

TO: Governor's Energy Efficiency and Renewables Task Force
Statutory and Regulatory Initiatives Workgroup Members

FROM: Brian Rude

DATE: July 7, 2004

RE: **Minutes from July 1, 2004 Workgroup Meeting**

Workgroup members present:

Brian Rude, chair	Forrest Ceel, by phone
George Edgar, by phone	Jim Schott

Task Force Staff present:

Linda Hajek, Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP
Barbara Samuel, DOA

Stakeholders present:

Cathy Boies, CFC, by phone	Roger Kasper, DATCP	Rich Hackner, GDS
Rebecca Larson, Xcel	Scott Neitzel, MGE	Ilze Rukis, WPSR

Meeting Outcomes

- **Farm Bill** - Workgroup discussed the letter sent on June 16, 2004 to Governor Doyle regarding the Farm Bill and the need to follow up with the Governor as to status.
- **Public Hearing Comments** - Workgroup reviewed the Public Hearing comments as to rural energy initiatives and assessing potential for biomass. There was also discussion relative to an innovative rate structure or load management. Scott Neitzel will draft language to be circulated relative to encouraging new technologies for time-of-day metering and moving load to off-peak hours. The consensus of this workgroup was to advise the Task Force of the ideas that merited further attention.
- **State Purchases of Renewable Energy (AB 977/SB 554)** – Consensus approval by the workgroup of this bill will be included in final Task Force report, subject to extension of federal production tax credit.
- **Sales Tax and Use Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems (AB 762 and sub. Amend.)** – Consensus approval to include recommendation for bill in final Task Force report.
- **Use of Energy Efficient Products in State Facilities (SB 111)** – The Standards and Building Codes workgroup is reviewing this bill and related energy efficiency efforts.

- **Rural Development and Electricity Production** – There was discussion regarding the three options proposed by DATCP to advance the use of anaerobic digestors.
 - Option 1:** Increase assistance to the Agricultural Development and Diversification Program (ADD) Grant Program.
 - Discussion:** There is still need for research and development. Consensus reached to increase funding, but to have it specifically set aside for anaerobic digestors.
 - Option 2:** Increase funding to the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (WASI). DATCP suggests funding digester research on WASI pilot farms.
 - Discussion:** Consensus reached to increase funding for digester research.
 - Option 3:** Establish a New Environmental Technology Producer Loan Guarantee Program.
 - Discussion:** Consensus to work language into the definition of Bio-Energy Coordinator.
- **Focus on Energy** – There was consensus that cooperation should be developed between Focus on Energy and individual municipal and cooperative programs. The Task Force will ask the Department of Administration to encourage communication and cooperation between the various energy efficiency providers. Language will be drafted by Brian Rude and Cathy Boies.
- **Bio-Energy Coordinator Position** – There was discussion regarding the main focus of this position, which would be to leverage state and federal programs and funding options for rural renewable projects. There was consensus to support a position that also included the overseeing of biofuels, or a State Bioenergy/Biofuel Director.